



METHODS FOR EVALUATING PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

There are different parameters, which may affect packaging and its sustainability. Up to date, several methodologies and tools have been developed not only to quantify but also to assess the environmental impacts from packaging. Different criteria and indicators have been used depending on the objectives, scope and nature of the evaluation. One of the software tools developed is that one that assesses the packaging sustainability according to the Sustainable Packaging Alliance (SPA) principles. Key performance indicators and targets are considered. Results are not linked to a final decision “pass/not pass” in order to facilitate decision making.

This work shows the existing difficulties related to the most suitable indicators that assess the sustainability of packaging and their identification. Current sustainability assessment methodologies used specifically for packaging, which have been developed by different institutions and/or implemented in different companies are analysed.

Key words: assessment, methodology, packaging, sustainability

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